MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an offensive launched at dawn on 22 March, Iranian forces destroyed the main Iraqi forces west of Shush and Dezful, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. Two Iraqi divisions and 3 brigades were smashed and over 10,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded, according to the communique. Over 1,200 sq km of Iranian territory, including the 'Eyn Khosh garrison and the towns of Emamzadeh 'Abbas and Dasht-e 'Abbas, were liberated in the offensive, IRNA said. It added that 60 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and that the captured Iraqis included a general and a few colonels. Fifty Iranians were killed and over 300 wounded, and 3,000 Iraqi prisoners were evacuated behind the fronts, IRNA continued. It also said Iranian jets and helicopters carried out 48 attacks against Iraqi positions near 'Abu Soleqbi-Khat, 20 km west of Shush. Citing IRNA, Tehran radio said the Iranian Air Force downed one Iraqi MiG and one Mirage, and air defense units shot down two MiGs. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni congratulated the troops in an announcer-read speech on Tehran radio.

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio admitted that the enemy had launched a large-scale offensive, but said that in the fierce battle Iran sustained many casualties and losses in materiel. Iraqi aircraft flew 159 combat missions and Iraqi helicopters 24 missions in the Dezful and Shush areas, all returning safely to base, according to the communique, which added that an Iranian fighter plane was downed by Iraqi antiaircraft units.

Israel

West Bank Disturbances -- One Ramallah resident was killed and two were injured when IDF soldiers fired to disperse demonstrators, Jerusalem radio reported. Other disturbances occurred in Al-Jazalun and Nabulus, the radio said, and the general strike continued in the major towns of Judaea and Samaria. Al-Birah municipal workers continued to strike after being driven by the military government to their offices, and police likewise tried to prevent the strike in east Jerusalem by driving businessmen to their shops.

IDF Central Command Commander Maj Gen Ori Or said in remarks broadcast by the radio that Israeli citizens seen on television shooting in Al-Birah had earlier escorted a schoolchildren's bus that was stoned by Arabs. However, the IDF should not give tear gas grenades to civilians, Or said, and if any soldiers have done so, they will be punished. In a speech to Likud activists reported by ITIM, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said the unrest in Judaea and Samaria stems from the terrorist organizations' feeling that they are losing ground there. According to Sharon, hundreds of thousands of people in those areas are expected to stand up and shake loose of the PLO.

Relations With Egypt -- Reporting on the 21 March Cabinet meeting, MA'ARIV said the ministers agreed that if Egypt rejects Israel's proposed method for settling remaining border disputes, the Cabinet may reach the "dramatic" decision that there will be no further withdrawal from the Sinai unless the matter of the final border demarcation has been settled. According to MA'ARIV, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reemphasized that if the Egyptians refuse to conduct the autonomy talks in Jerusalem, the talks will not be conducted at all. However, Begin subsequently expressed reservations about Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arens' remarks that if there is no progress in the autonomy negotiations, Israel will have to apply its law to Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin said Israel will not take any unilateral step in the territories before the end of the 5-year transitional period provided for in the Camp David accords.

Meanwhile, the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee drew up a final timetable for the handing over of the Sinai to Egypt, according to Jerusalem radio.

No-Confidence Motions -- Jerusalem radio said the Alignment's no-confidence motion criticizes the government in general terms, while the Hadash and Shinuy motions criticize government policy in the occupied territories. The Tehiya faction will probably support the Alignment in the vote, which is due on 23 March, according to the radio.

Egypt

AL-JUMHURIYAH called on Israel to enter the autonomy negotiations with a new mentality of recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, according to Cairo radio's 23 March press review. The paper said the disturbances in the West Bank have reaffirmed to Israel that armed repression is an unsound method of dealing with the Palestinians. The previous day, the radio reported that AL-AHRAM said Israel's disbandment of the Al-Birah council was the reason for the tension in the West Bank.

Jordan-PLO

A Palestinian delegation, including Fatah Central Committee members Khalil al-Wazir and Hani al-Hasan and two PLO Executive Committee members, arrived in Amman for a meeting of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for occupied territories affairs, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- An Iraqi diplomat was shot dead in Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that clashes resumed in the south between the Shi'ite Amal movement and its leftist and Palestinian opponents. In the northern town of Tripoli, 300 policemen were welcomed by citizens when they moved in to assume security duties, Beirut radio reported.

UNIFIL officers said automatic weapons were fired at unidentified helicopters overflying the south, Jerusalem radio noted. The IDF spokesman denied any Israeli helicopter activity in the area, the radio said.

PLO Proposals on South -- The PLO has submitted a working paper to the Arab League committee on the south that calls on Arab states to immediately send joint Arab forces to defend southern Lebanon, SANA reported.

Syria

TISHRIN Warning -- Israel is preparing to launch a new aggression, the broad lines of which have been drawn up in the White House, a TISHRIN article reported by SANA warned. To pave the way for this aggression, the paper said, Israel has intensified its presence along the Lebanese border, backed Sa'd Haddad's forces with U.S. mercenaries, opened new roads inside Lebanon to facilitate invasion, and given the green light to Lebanese Front military commander Bashir al-Jumayyil to explode the situation in Lebanon.

Opposition Groups -- Several religious and nationalist opposition groups have joined forces to draft a charter of national alliance for the liberation of Syria which aims to overthrow the current regime, AFP reported citing Muslim fundamentalist leader 'Ali Bayanuni. He said the new coalition comprises the Muslim Brotherood, the pro-Iraqi wing of the Ba'th Party, the Arab Socialist Party, the Islamic Front and independent political figures.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL ADDRESSES AFGHAN NATION ON NEW YEAR

LD211000 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 20 Mar, (BAKHTAR) -- In a comprehensive telecast speech on the eve of the Afghan new year 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC, president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, said that the past year was imbued with great and significant achievements and prospects for the toiling people of Afghanistan.

Karmal said as a result of the all-sided efforts and activities demonstrated during the past one year, the conditions in the country had further stabilized the new social order, strengthened and consolidated, and the enemies of the country and people were faced with disgraceful defeats.

During the past year, said Babrak Karmal, the National Fatherland Front of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was created as a great victory of the party and the state in mobilizing of all national and progressive forces under the banner of the revolution and as one of the valuable gains of the national-democratic revolution of Afghanistan. Thus, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was successful in fulfilling one of its very important pledges, namely, the creation of a united national front comprising all progressive and patriotic forces of the country.

Efforts were made during the past year, Karmal pointed out, for the implementation of necessary measures toward the elevation of the level of growth of productive forces and the acceleration of the pace of economic growth in the country.

He stressed that had it not been for the subversive acts of the enemies of the revolution of Afghanistan who wish to paralyse the country's economic growth, and had it not been for the undeclared war of imperialism against the people and revolution, the achievements of Afghanistan would have been far greater, more positive and more extensive in the field of economic and social growth.

The indices of economic growth in 1360 (1981-82) is considered positive and hopeful, he said. The gross national product was 1.5 percent higher in 1360 than the preceeding year while the national income was 2.4 percent more than the year 1359, Karmal pointed out.

He added that seventeen projects began production in 1360, including nine projects outside the plan.

Karmal also pointed out that the gross product of agriculture and cattle raising has increased 3.1 percent in 1360 than in 1359.

Dwelling on the measures taken for welfare of farmers, Babrak Karmal said "during the Afghan year 1360, in addition to a whole series of measures to rectify the mistakes and shortcomings of the first phase of land reforms, attention was paid to give continued aid to farmers in respect of the provision of chemical fertilizer and agriculture machines and implements."

One of the significant measures, Babrak Karmal continued, was to absolve the peasants from the penalties of their tax arrears for the three preceding years, as a result of which 760 thousand farmer families were exempted from paying 722 million afghanis owned by them.

Babrak Karmal pointed out that the previous mistakes and flaws in solving the land and water question were rectified and water and land in the DRA now belonged to the farmers.

As regards the welfare of the state officials, workers and employees, Babrak Karmal said that during the current Afghan year ending today the wages and salaries of workers and contract employees were raised between 26 to 50 percent and lunch allowance of the workers, employees and officials was increased by 50 percent and that the participation of the working class of the country was ensured in the leadership of the productive process through the conclusion of collective contracts as one of the important new elements in the sphere of production.

Dwelling on the elimination of the counter-revolutionaries and the ensuring of security in the country, Babrak Karmal pointed out that during the last year comprehensive measures were taken aimed at ensuring a countrywide peace and to prevent the undeclared war which is still shamelessly carried on by the imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism in collusion with the reaction of the region and police and state information services have dealt crushing and shattering blows on the enemies of the revolution of Afghanistan in order to ensure peace and security throughout the country.

Pointing out to the victories gained against the counter-revolution, Babrak Karmal added:

Our victories in the struggle against counter-revolution are positive and valuable. Yet the defeated counter-revolution still endeavors to resort to destruction and terror here and there and attempts to prevent the expansion of the gains of the revolution.

Likewise, it should be added, Karmal continued, that imperialism still continues the export of the counter-revolution to Afghanistan and has not stopped its subversive attempts against the DRA. Imperialism attempts to flare up the tension in the region through its puppets and thus to continue its aggressive counter-revolutionary, anti-Afghanistan and anti-Soviet policy in the region. The imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, while understanding the invincibility of the revolution of Afghanistan only continues the undeclared war against the revolutionary Afghanistan for the sole purpose of its long-term aggressive interests in the region.

Dwelling on Reagan's policy against the revolutionary Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal said that Reagan, the President of the United States of America, has lately tried to give a new dimension to his aggressive strategy against the DRA under the title of the so-called Afghanistan Day. These attempts, he added, are a part of the policy of aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of our free and independent country, the revolutionary Afghanistan. I would like, Babrak Karmal stressed, to elucidate once against that Mr Reagan and his likes cannot or do not want to understand that the life has nullified the sum total of the efforts launched by the counter-revolution.

Our people will carry forward the holy banner of the struggle for the cause of creating a new society led by the PDPA, and those who desire to obstruct our path of humane and sacred struggle are doomed to complete failure.

Pointing to the successful convocation of the countrywide PDPA conference, Babrak Karmal said the convocation of the countrywide conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan at a high level of unity and integrity, was a decisive and jaw breaking response to all propaganda of the imperialists who wish to distort the situation in our country, and once again the ominous and evil wishes of our enemies were met with failure.

Karmal added that the convocation of the countrywide PDPA conference was a new important step towards the consolidation of the leading and organizing role of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in our society.

The conference delegates, he emphasized, by fully and completely confirming the policy line and practical activities of Central Committee of the PDPA, by unanimously adopting the programs of action and other documents in the conference, displayed their readiness for the fulfillment without delay of the revolutionary duties, and once again renewed their [word indistinct] before the party and the people, to actively participate in the revolutionary transformations.

Karmal said that the secret of the invulnerability and stubbornness of our party and revolution lies not only in the support of the millions of the masses of the people to the revolution, but is attached to the universal front of the defence of the revolution of Afghanistan.

We announce with pride, he added, that the universal front for the defense of Afghanistan will be strengthened and expanded more than before.

Karmal reminded that during the past year our people witnessed the convocation of the tenth session of the AAPSO's Presidium in Kabul. The holding of this session, he said, once again showed to all that all the world forces of peace and progress are with us and will consistently defend the revolution of Afghanistan.

Speaking on foreign policy of the DRA, Babrak Karmal said: "The foreign policy of the PDPA and the state of the DRA is based on the principles of peace, peaceful co-existence, lessening the international tension, nonalignment, and relations of friendship and mutual cooperation with the peoples and countries of the world based on respect of the national independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the countries. This policy will continue as before," Babrak Karmal said.

"This policy has been welcomed by all progressive forces of the world. On the basis of the principled and peace-loving foreign policy of the DRA, we have expressed our permanent readiness for the cause of securing peace and security in the region and the world."

Already no one can ignore the undeniable fact of the peaceful seeking attempts of the DRA for creating friendly relations and mutual cooperation with our neighbours in the region based on the respect of the national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The declaration of August 24, 1981, of the Government of the DRA in continuation of the peaceful proposals of the DRA dated May 14, 1980, once again proved to the world the peaceful principles of the foreign policy of the DRA.

Babrak Karmal said: "Our declaration of August 24 contained further flexibility, a realistic approach to the solution of problems through peaceful means and the effectiveness of measures for ensuring peace and tranquility in the region.

Babrak Karmal noted: "Regretfully our neighbours have not shown necessary preparedness to fulfill their role in this regard.

I hope that as I have repeatedly pointed out our neighbours will be able to comprehend with cool-headedness and political realism the sensitivity of the situation in the region and become prepared for sound and constructive negotiations with the DRA and to take necessary steps to ensure cooperation and mutual understanding.

Expressing optimism for the future, he said we are firmly confident that our peoples during the coming year will achieve new victories in the light of the programme of action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the decisions of the PDPA and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

KARMAL INTERVIEWED ON POLICY, SECURITY

LD222256 London BBC Television Network in English 2010 GMT 22 Mar 82

["Panorama" program, with interview conducted by David Lomax with Babrak Karmal, chairman of the PDPA Revolutionary Council; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] If you are truly independent from the Soviet Union, how do you differ from the Soviet Union in policy?

[Answer] We are an independent, nonaligned country. Soviet Union, that is a difference; we -- Afghanistan is nonaligned country.

[Question] But do you differ from the Soviet Union at all?

[Answer] We support the general policy of Soviet Union. Soviet Union is against colonialism, new colonialism, imperialism, zionism, racism, apartheid, discrimination, fascism. We are also against this.

[Question] But do you disagree with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Soviet Union defends peace, the freedom of the peoples, national independence, the liberation movement, progress...social progress in the world. We support also this.

[Question] Do you disagree with the Soviet Union on any matter of policy or principle?

[Answer] Not at all.

[Question] How did President Amin die?

[Answer] Well, I have explained to you that some forces of our party, government, the Revolutionary Council, the majority, had in mind to crush the regime of Amin, and in this way, legally approved by the Revolutionary Council, that Amin was to be judged in a court, in a revolutionary court, and sentenced to death.

[Question] How did he die?

[Answer] Well, I wasn't there at the time of his dying, but he was sentenced to death legally.

We are ready to discuss, to politically solve the row between Afghanistan with Pakistan and Iran, and a very flexible policy, peaceful policy, we have proposed. But there is American U.S. imperialism, hegemonism and reaction and Pakistan. They don't want to back the military contingents, limited contingent, of Soviet Union in Afghanistan because they want to have a pretext against Soviet Union. They make it very clear.

[Question] If it is true that you do have a strong army and most of the people in Afghanistan support your revolution now, why is it that we are not even allowed to leave the capital?

[Answer] Why do you think that we have not permission to go from the capital outside?

[Question] I mean us. We are not able to leave this capital.

[Answer] You know, in a revolution, at times... for some time because at the minimum we don't want to risk it, because of the security. Maybe against you some terrorist comes. This is just idiocy.

[Question] This is just a precaution?

[Answer] Precaution for the time being.

[Question] We would like to go to the second and third largest cities in your country which, in the west, are said to be controlled by the mujahidin.

[Answer] Well, mujahidin is created by the Reagan administration. There are no anti-revolution bandits.

[Question] Do you control these two cities?

[Answer] Completely. We completely control our cities. The majority of the territory of Afghanistan is under control of the government.

[Question] You control all Afghanistan?

[Answer] This is a process. This process is part of revolution. You speak as if you have not studied about revolution. In revolution you meet sometimes difficulties like this. It is natural for a revolution. We live in a revolutionary situation. There are some difficulties, naturally. But our government, our party and the nation, the Fatherland Front, our people are going in a very good process to normalize the country. But it is reaction, imperialism, hegemonism that hinder normalization of the country. It is a fact. Whether you agree or do not agree, it is hard fact.

REAGAN APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY DAY CONDEMNED

AU201512 Sofia BTA in English 1335 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Sofia, 20 Mar (BTA) -- The Afghan workers sharply condemn Mr Ronald Reagan's appeal of March 21 for declaring a day for solidarity with the Afghan counterrevolution. This is what Mr Abdul Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of the Afghan trade unions, underlined in "TRUD." He emphasized that the Afghan workers and employees are actively participating in the building up of the new society. They are ever clearer seeing the counterrevolutionaries' true aims. With the help of the USA the bandits are destroying schools and factories and are killing women and children. "We are well informed of the ties existing between the Reagan administration and the hegemonist leadership of China. They have not been established recently and are not directed against us alone," Mr Abdul Pordeli said.

Further on he said that the Afghan working class are firmly standing on their revolutionary post and are not only dismantling the enemies but are also depriving them of the possibility to carry out an anti-people's activity.

Mr Abdul Pordeli comments also on the work of the 17th Congress of the Trade Unions of the Soviet Union and on Mr Leonid Brezhnev's speech delivered at this forum. He noted that the speech of the Soviet party leader and head of state and especially his new peace initiatives will have lasting positive consequences for the situation in the world.

As for the relations between the Bulgarian and Afghan trade unions, Mr Pordeli said that they are multidirected and are being expanded and consolidated with every passing day. Many of the Afghan cadres have finished the trade unionist school in Sofia. The Afghan workers spend their holidays in Bulgaria and are made familiar with the achievements of the real socialism.

MUHAMADULLAH REPLACES HUDA AS VICE PRESIDENT

BK230916 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Muhamadullah was sworn in as vice president at a simple function at Banga Bhavan this morning. President Sattar administered the oath of office to the new vice president.

Earlier, Dr M.N. Huda resigned as vice president on health grounds and the president accepted his resignation with respect.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended among others by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Bangladesh Nationalist Party Secretary General Badruddoza Chowdhury and members of the Cabinet.

Dr M.N. Huda was later appointed adviser to the president. The duties and responsibilities assigned to Dr M.N. Huda as adviser will be to preside over all meetings of the National Economic Council for monitoring and review of implementation of development projects and attend all meetings of the Council of Ministers National Economic Council and the national committees under the chairmanship of the president. Dr M.N. Huda will also coordinate policies and action relating to food, imports and exports and utilization of foreign aid, examine all establishment matters before these are placed before the president and deal with any other matters as may be desired by the president.

SATTAR APPOINTS NEW BNP STANDING COMMITTEE

BK230922 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Dacca, 23 Mar (AFP) -- President Abdus Sattar, in a surprise move, today appointed 60-year-old former President Muhamadullah as his vice-president.

The official BSS news agency reported that Mr. Muhamadullah, a ruling party m.p., took the oath of office before President Sattar at the presidential palace.

The appointment of Mr. Muhamadullah followed persistent demands from a section of ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], party of President Sattar, for more party men in key posts in the government.

Dr. Huda was a technocrat. During last few weeks, newspapers reported that he was unwilling to stay in his position and had tendered his resignation.

Meanwhile, President Sattar dissolved the 15-member National Standing Committee of the BNP last night and appointed a new committee with himself as the chairman.

The new committee included some of the leaders of an apparently dissident faction in ruling party.

EXPLOSION REPORTED AT AWAMI LEAGUE MEETING

BK200937 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Dacca, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Four people were injured in an explosion at a public meeting organized by the opposition Awami League in Khulna District, it was reported here today.

The explosion took place yesterday afternoon, a few minutes before Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed rose to address the meeting. The injured were mostly spectators.

Sheikh Hasina, who took up leadership of the Awami League in May, five years after the overthrow of her father Mujibar Rahman's government in 1975, was unhurt, and she delivered her speech uninterrupted. She told the crowd that the forces who opposed Bangladesh's war of liberation in 1971 were again active and trying to subvert independence. She did not identify the forces, but she called upon progressive and pro-liberation parties to unite in "establishing a representative government" in the country.

HAQ ADDRESSES NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION PARADE

BK230908 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Pakistan Day is being observed throughout the country with traditional enthusiasm and the spirit of [word indistinct] adherence to the ideology of Pakistan. A special feature in this connection is the armed forces combined parade in Rawalpindi. The president took the salute and inspected the parade.

Speaking at the parade, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan desires friendly and peaceful relations with all countries and especially its neighbors, but the security of the country cannot be left to the mercy of others. In view of changing circumstances, it has become very important to modernize and make the armed forces effective and that is why we are making the fullest effort to equip the armed forces with modern weapons so that they can effectively defend the independence of the country, Islamic ideology, national prestige and values.

The president warned the nation against internal and external elements which are opposed to the (?practical) implementation of Islamic philosophy. He described such elements as enemies of Pakistan and Islam. He urged his countrymen to unite and remain cautious of these elements. He urged the people to cooperate in advancing the process of Islamization. Prominent foreign personalities who witnessed the parade this year included a high-level Chinese good-will delegation led by Vice Premier Ji Pengfei and Turkish army commander Nurettin Ersin.

HAQ: ELECTIONS 'NOT SUITABLE' AT PRESENT

BK220413 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that he and his colleagues will certainly fulfill their mission to transform the administrative system of the country according to Islamic tenets and bring sanity to politics. He said that the day is not far off when the Islamic spirit will be evident in every aspect of life.

Addressing a news conference at Lahore airport last night he said that the government understands that the process started with the formation of local bodies, provincial councils and the Advisory Council is the correct means to achieve this end. He regretted that at present the government and politicians are treading two different paths. He said that he does not want to say anything about the future role of political parties, but it is the present government which will decide when it will be suitable to start activities by political parties and when it will be in the interest of the country.

The president recalled that political parties were included in the government for 9 months but no positive results were achieved from this experiment. The president said he understands that as long as martial law is in force in the country, the government will function as a martial law government only. He said that holding elections in the country can be an objective, but the situation in and around the country at present is not suitable for holding elections. He said that if elections were held now it would create chaos and the people would forget the incidents of 1977. The president said that politicians are creating the impression that the establishment of a national government is the only solution to the problems of the country. He said there are obvious contradictions in the politicians' idea of a national government because they are ready to form such a government under my leadership but are not united on the nomination of someone from among them.

The president said that if the politicians think that united they can create problems and difficulties for the government they are mistaken; they will only create problems for themselves. He said that those who think that because the present government has been in power for more than four and a half years, I can be pressured, they are deeply mistaken. The president said that he has entrusted Federal State Minister Mahmud Ali with the task of coordination between the members of the Advisory Council and between him and the politicians. He said that he has not asked Mahmud Ali to meet the politicians for preparation of any formula.

In reply to a question, the president said that the four organs of the government -- executive, judiciary, legislature and press -- are in place and are functioning. He said that the present government is a martial law government and he does not even consider himself to be above the law. We have to work in unity for the stability of the country.

On the appointment of an ombudsman, the president said that an ordinance in this regard has been placed before the Advisory Council and as soon as it is approved the ombudsman will be appointed.

Referring to the newspapers of the country, the president regretted the fact that some newspapers are creating uncertainty among the people. This is not only harmful for them but is also harmful for the country. He said that reports and editorials being published in various newspapers create the impression among overseas Pakistanis that there is no leadership in Pakistan. The atmosphere created by some newspapers recently was dangerous for the country. I have asked the journalists to review the newspapers of certain neighboring countries to see how they present reports published in Pakistani newspapers. He appealed to journalists not to publish anything that may create further difficulties for the country.

SAUDI DAILY INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ

GF221514 Jidda AL-BILAD in Arabic 20 Mar 82 pp 5, 6

[Text of interview granted by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq to AL-BILAD correspondent Nasr al-Qatari at the An-Nasiriyah Palace in Jidda -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] Pakistani-Indian relations are currently passing through a crucial and a decisive stage. What is your assessment of the dimensions of these relations?

President Ziaul Haq: Pakistan and India are neighboring countries. Bilateral relations have undergone alternating stages of progress and stagnation. However, I do not want to talk about the past because we want to begin a new page in our relations with India. We want to establish relations with India on a firm basis. We want these relations to be free of tension and we want them to be established on a basis of good neighborliness and mutual respect.

In this regard, we, on our part, have made many initiatives that have been met with understanding by the Indian side. Despite the fact that there are some obstacles, I am confident that we will be able to surmount them. I also expect a positive Indian response in the near future.

[Question] Mr President, does Your Excellency believe that the Kashmir and Palestinian issues are identical?

Haq: The Kashmir issue is very complicated, yet, we want to resolve it through peaceful means.

[Question] Mr President, how does Your Excellency view the no-war pact between Pakistan and India?

Haq: This pact is one of the initiatives Pakistan has proposed to India to reach the required peaceful settlement between the two countries. Under the terms of the peaceful bilateral agreement, I believe the two countries will not need to use force. You know that we fought each other for 3 years. Therefore, in this offer, (or in this initiative that we proposed to India), we wanted to denounce the use of force as a means of resolving problems.

[Question] Mr President, in view of the current circumstances, do you believe such an agreement will lead to a certain settlement?

Haq: Yes. In fact, the current circumstances are most favorable for speedy steps to be taken to resolve our problems. Tension exacerbates the situation in the region. Thus, through good relations, India and Pakistan will be able to reduce tension. This step will be in the interest of the region's peace in general.

[Question] Mr President, does Your Excellency believe that the fears India has expressed are due to the Pakistani-U.S. rapprochement and the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan?

Haq: I believe this idea is primarily due to Indian sentiment. India justifies these fears by Pakistan's receipt of advanced weapons. We have repeatedly tried to explain to India that a small quantity of advanced weapons will contribute toward Pakistan's stability. We have also repeatedly conveyed to India our stand on this issue. A strong and stable Pakistan is bound to be in India's interest. I hope officials in India will view the stand from the same angle.

[Question] Mr President, in your view, what are the dimensions of Pakistan's foreign policy in light of U.S.-Pakistani rapprochement and in view of the real assessment of the balance of power in the subcontinent?

Haq: Pakistan's foreign policy is open, clear and very simple. We neither consider ourselves a superpower nor one of those who can affect the world's balance of power. We know what our real potential and role are. Pakistan is a peace-loving nation. Through our human resources and other graces of God we can play an active and important role in serving the Islamic world. From this basis, we do not attempt to follow in the superpowers' footsteps, we try to live in peace as a member of the Islamic world, the southeast Asian group and the international community. Thus, our foreign policy is based on our alliance with our friends in the Islamic world. Our friendship with the PRC is also the cornerstone of our foreign policy.

[Question] Mr President, in your view, what is the result of the current war between the Soviet Union and the Afghan people?

Haq: The Afghan people in Afghanistan have bravely and strongly resisted the Soviet aggression. They have been valiantly fighting over the past 2 years to regain their freedom. I hope the Soviets will understand this fact and will respond to the demands of the Afghan people in their struggle for freedom and independence and to establish their independent and sovereign government that can be a friend of the Soviet Union.

[Question] What is the outcome of the efforts being exerted to implement Islamic law in Pakistan?

Haq: I believe they are a step in the right direction. They spring from the hopes of the Pakistani people themselves. The Muslim people in Pakistan want to live under the principles and values for which this state was established. You know that Pakistan was established for the sake of Islam.

Other countries were already there and Islam was introduced to them. As for Pakistan, it was established specifically to be a Muslim state. So, you see the difference.

[Question] What about Pakistani-Iranian relations?

Haq: They are very good. We are two intimate neighbors and our relations are very close and solid.

[Question] Mr President, have these good relations had any effect on Islamic efforts for peace?

Haq: Pakistani-Iranian relations have had one result: We have been able to pressure Iran to formulate the idea of Islamic unity and solidarity and to further increase cooperation among Islamic countries and to try to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war. We have also come to know very well Iran's real stand. We are Iran's neighbor and friend. We have pointed this out to the Islamic Good Offices Committee. As a member of the Good Offices Committee, we have also pointed this out to Iraq. Pakistan knows its stand on this very well, as I have said, we are neighboring countries. When Iranian-Iraqi relations are concerned, we are peaceseekers and we exert all efforts to establish a durable and just peace between the two countries as a member of the Islamic Good Offices Committee.

[Question] What were the reasons behind the formation of the Islamic Good Offices Minicommittee?

Haq: Due to the difficulty of holding meetings among members of the main committee at any time, the committee decided to form a minic[illegible]mmittee that can always meet under Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure until the problem is resolved.

[Question] What is Iraq's reaction to the Islamic committee's proposal to withdraw Iraqi forces from Iranian territory?

Haq: Iraq's stand has been clear and firm from the outset. Iraqi officials stated that they do not want to occupy any Iranian territory and that they will quit this territory. However, they have some conditions for this withdrawal.

[Question] Have Iraq and Iran agreed to the formation of an Islamic military force to replace the Iraqi forces after their withdrawal from Iranian territory?

Haq: The Islamic Good Offices Committee now has many proposals to achieve a permanent and just peace between the two countries. I believe we will reach a certain understanding on which differing views will agree.

[Question] Did you meet Imam Khomeyni during your recent visit to Tehran?

Haq: No, I did not meet him. However, we inquired after him and we were told he is in good health.

[Question] At the conclusion of this interesting interview, does Your Excellency have anything more to say?

Haq: Yes. Through your venerable newspaper AL-BILAD, and as a Muslim and a member of the Good Offices Committee, I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for the facilities his government has placed at the committee's disposal. I also want to convey my heartiest wishes to his majesty for a long life and to the fraternal Saudi people and his majesty's government wishes for progress in this good country. I want to say one more thing: This is also the wish of the people of Pakistan.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

BK210712 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan took the oath as the new foreign minister in Rawalpindi this morning. President Cen Mohammad Ziaul Haq administered the oath of office at a simple ceremony. The federal minister and the federal secretaries also attended the ceremony.

Comments on Policy Goals

BK201530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Minister designate Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that he will strive to continue the country's foreign policy in order to consolidate the successes achieved so far. He was talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival in Islamabad from Paris this afternoon.

He said that there will be little change in the present foreign policy. When asked what sectors will be given priority, he said Pakistan attaches the highest importance to its relations with India, the Soviet Union and other neighboring countries. He added that a solution to the Afghanistan issue and the continued influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan are among other important matters.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan stressed that Pakistan's relations with the Islamic states are most important and lasting and that their importance and lasting character will be maintained. Pakistan has always fully supported the Islamic states, including the position of the Arab states on Palestine and Jerusalem.

When asked about the latest developments concerning Pakistan's proposal of a no-war pact with India, the foreign minister designate referred to the president's repeated statement that Pakistan desires to improve relations with India. He expressed the hope with this spirit in view the present difficulty in the dialogue with India will prove temporary.

PRESIDENT ISSUES NEW CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT

BK211048 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The president has issued a criminal law amendment order, 1982, which comes into force immediately. It provides for trial by a special tribunal or a special military court of offences like murder, use of arms and dstruction of public properties in connection with acts of subversion, terrorism and sabotage.

BAN ON GATHERINGS IMPOSED; STRIKERS ARRESTED

BK211251 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Islamabad, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Scores of striking teachers were arrested today for planning a rally in Islamabad in support of higher wages and uniform pay scales for urban and rural teachers, union sources said. On Thursday [18 March] police used batons to disperse a similar demonstration in Lahore, the Punjab capital. Those arrested were later freed.

After the union called another rally in the capital for today, the authorities declared it illegal and imposed a ban on gatherings of more than four people anywhere in the city. Police sealed all routes leading to the announced venue of the meeting. Meanwhile, young doctors have also served notice that they will stop work from tomorrow if the wage increase agreed last year is not implemented by then.

KHOMEYNI CONGRATULATES ARMED FORCES ON VICTORY

LD222208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Message to the nation and to "the victorious and proud fighters of Islam" from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on the occasion of the "great victory" scored by the armed forces on the battlefield; issued 22 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "If you assist God, He will assist you and will make your steps firm." [Koranic verse] The great reports from the fields of battle against the satanic forces have been reaching me one after another. My pen is unable to express my feelings.

I express my congratulations to the Islamic armed forces. May God bestow the final victory upon them. I congratulate you on this great victory which has been bestowed upon Islam and the beloved country of Iran, the country of the great remnant of God [the hidden imam], may our souls be a sacrifice unto him, a victory achieved with the assistance of the angels of God and the support of the most exalted Heaven. May God's boundless grace be upon those parents who trained upon their pure laps you fighters in the battlefields and holy warriors against your own baser instincts during luminous nights.

Glad tidings to you valiant youths for having satisfied God Almighty, the greatest of spiritual and religious achievements. You are victorious in the two fortresses, the spiritual and the material, the manifest and the hidden. I express my humble thanks to the remnant of God for the existence of such valuable fighters and warriors in the path of God, combatants who have maintained the honor of Islam, who have brought glory to the Iranian nation and who have caused the exaltation of the fighters in the path of God.

The great Iranian nation and the children of Islam are proud of you heroic forces. Greetings upon you who placed your homeland upon the wings of the angel of God and brought honor to it in the sight of the nations of the world. Blessings to the nation for such fighting youths, and blessings to you warriors for having such a faithful nation which, as soon as it heard the news of your victory and triumph, arose in prayers and thanksgiving.

From a great distance, I kiss your powerful hands and arms, which are supported by the hand of God, and I pride myself in this. You have repaid your debt to beloved Islam and the noble homeland and have crushed the hope of the superpowers and their mercenaries of subjugating your country. You engaged most enthusiastically in jihad for the sake of the glory and honor of Islam. "How I wish I could have been with you and would have achieved this great blessing." [Koranic verse]

Greetings upon the illustrious commanders of the fighters and upon all those who struggle for the sake of the greatness of the land of Islam; curses and malediction be upon the hypocrites and the deviated people who wanted to set fire to one of the ammunition depots of our warriors. May God's anger and wrath be upon those ungodly people who by assisting the 'Aflaqite Saddam wished to save him. Unbounded praise be upon God for enabling you to defeat the forces of blasphemy, thus bringing shame upon them in the presence of the Almighty God and making them despised in the sight of the Muslim nation.

I beseech Almighty God for the final victory of you beloved ones and for the defeat of the enemies of truth. Greetings upon you; and may God's grace be upon the martyrs in the path of God and upon the martyrs on the fields of battle between truth and falsehood. Greetings be upon the righteous servants of God.

[Signed] Ruhollah Khomeyni, 22 March 1982

MONTAZERI ADDRESSES NATION ON VICTORIES

LD221402 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Speech to the nation by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri on 22 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, our combatant brothers, you brave military personnel, you courageous guardsmen, popular and Mobilization forces, brave tribesmen, police, gendarmerie forces. May God assist you all. You hold the key to the [word indistinct] victory, rely on God and be determined to open the way to Karbala'. You Muslim combatants are the soldiers of the hidden imam; now God's angels and soldiers walk alongside you.

You heroic history makers and you special servants of God, the moment of Islam's victory over blasphemy is near. You are now replying to [words indistinct], and he is waiting for your crushing response. Do not be frightened; unite your ranks and with complete coordination and dependence on God open the very last doors to Saddam's infidelity [as heard].

You who have been deceived by Saddam [words indistinct], why should you Muslim army personnel of Iraq die for blood-sucking Saddam's dreams? Rush forward to support dear Islam and [words indistinct]. Surrender to the army of Islam, now that the Muslim nation of Iran will [words indistinct], and know that by surrendering you ensure the downfall of the infidel Ba'thist regime. And you the Muslim and oppressed nation of Iraq should take advantage of this divine opportunity and use whatever means available to you to destroy the foundations of Saddam's rotting government from inside the country.

You the freedom-seeking, Muslim revolutionaries of Iraq, try to establish contact with the much-suffered people of Iraq and help them by arming them in order to create a strong Islamic front to replace the rule of blasphemous and satanic Saddam with an Islamic government.

Peace be upon you all and God's blessing.

FURTHER DETAILS ON 22 MAR FAT'H OPERATION

10,000 Killed, Wounded

LD221800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Communique No 3 issued on 22 March by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "We have granted you a clear victory." [Koranic verse] The self-sacrificing sons of Islam, continuing their great battle against world arrogance and against the aggression of the deceived forces of Saddam, are engaged in a face-to-face battle on the fronts and are creating new epics of Islamic devotion, like the golden verses of the epic Karbala' [where Imam Hoseyn was martyred], which have been forever registered upon the pages of history. Oh fighting and martyr-nurturing nation, the self-sacrificing forces and the lovers of the Karbala' of Hoseyn, following their victorious operations which started under the codename of "Ya Zahra" continue to gain greater victories.

During these operations, which started at dawn today, our fighters attacked a region containing the biggest concentration of enemy forces, to the west of Shush and Dezful. In this extensive and enemy-crushing offensive, they succeeded in destroying the primary strength of the dependent and deceived Iraqi forces in this region.

So far, in these operations the 42d and 17th Armored Brigades, the 24th Mechanized Brigade, a part of the 10th Iraqi Armored Division, under the command of Brigadier General Sabit Soltan, the 1st and 27th Mechanized Brigades, the 35th and 51st Armored Brigades and a part of the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Division, under the command of Samir Hamad Mahmud, were completely smashed and destroyed.

In this extensive and victorious operation, which led to the destruction of two complete divisions of the deceived Iraqi Armed Forces, the forces of Islam also succeeded in smashing the 505th Brigade, the 423d Brigade and the 93d Infantry Brigade of the deceived Iraqi forces.

They have also either killed a large number of Iraqi forces or have captured them. So far, the enemy casualties in these operations are more than 10,000 killed or wounded. However, as a result of the extensive nature of the operations and the large number of enemy personnel killed or wounded, they have not been completely counted.

So far, the number of enemy forces captured is more than 2,000. The counting and the evacuation of the POW's still continues and the complete figures will be brought to the attention of the revolutionary and martyr-nurturing nation in future communiques. "May those who acted in a tyrannical way know God transforms everything." [Koranic verse]

May these great victories, which have been achieved with the self-sacrifice of the martyrs and fighters of Islam, herald the dawn of the uprising of the Muslim Iraqi nation against the dependent and mercenary regime of Saddam. We express our congratulations to the great imam and to our martyr-nurturing nation on the occasion of these victories.

1,200 Sq Km Liberated

LD222106 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 22 Mar (IRNA) -- More than 1,200 sq kms of the Iranian territory were liberated in today's "Fat'h" [victory] operation launched at 00.30 a.m. of Monday. During this operation, four Iraqi infantry and armoured brigades were destroyed in the northwest of Khuzestan Province.

More than 60 Iraqi tanks were reported destroyed and many Iraqi Army personnel, including one general and few colonels were taken prisoners. The exact figure of enemy's casualties and damage were not available at 2 p.m. today due to the vastness of the battle fields.

Military experts told IRNA war correspondents that those four Iraqi brigades were completely destroyed while defenders of the Islamic revolution succeeded to recapture strategic goals. Iranian jet fighters and helicopters attacked 48 times today Iraqi positions near (Abou-Soleqbi-Khat), 20 kms west of the historical city of Shush.

Meanwhile relief committee officials announced that during the Fat'h operation, 50 Iranian combatants were martyred and more than 300 others were injured and hospitalized in Shush hospitals.

According to the latest news of 9.00 p.m., 3,000 Iraqi POWs were evacuated behind the fronts.

Iraqi Mirage Downed

LD221440 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 22 Mar (IRNA) -- An Iraqi Mirage had been shot down this morning, while the victorious "Fat'h" operation is continuing, by the Iranian Air Force fighters in the Eyn Khosh area, 17 km east of the Iraqi border. The Iraqi Mirage debris could be seen in (Moolab) about 10 km west of Eyn Khosh.

The Iraqi pilot had been captured and transferred behind the battle fronts.

2 MiG's Downed

LD221838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, with the downing of two more MiG's, the number of Iraqi airplanes shot down during the Fat'h operations has reached four. According to this report, of the four airpla s shot down one is a Mirage and the rest are MiG's.

One MiG and one Mirage were shot down by the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force fighters and two MiG's were shot down by our air defense units along the fronts to the west of Dezful and Shush. In addition, two Iraqi helicopters were shot down. The pilot of the downed Mirage was wounded and has been captured.

'Few' Iranian Casualties

LD222114 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 22 Mar (IRNA) -- The number of Iranians wounded in the Fat'h operations was few despite the extent of the operation, announced the authorities of the medical relief headquarters for the Fat'h operations in the southern Reqabiyeh-Karkheh fronts. The report also added that enemy artillery fire on those fronts has been reduced considerably.

In another development, in the fulfillment of the Fat'h operation, the Eyn Khosh garrison was liberated the morning of March 22nd. Eyn Khosh is 17 km east of the Iraqi border. The report added that the beginning of the Eyn Khosh-Dehloran highway was liberated and it is said that the enemy POW's number over 1,000.

The morale of the Iranian soldiers was reported to be high.

800 POW's Evacuated

LD221612 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1525 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] Attention, attention. Muslim people of Iran: According to some reports, following an extensive offensive by the Islamic forces against the Iraqi aggressor forces on the Shush front and to the west of Dezful, which was launched around 0030 today and codenamed "Ya Zahra," to date four enemy armored and infantry brigades have been completely smashed, with several hundred enemy troops taken prisoner by the Islamic forces. By midday today 800 POW's had already been transferred behind the fronts.

According to IRNA correspondents' reports from the fronts, in the early hours of the wide-scale offensive by the Islamic forces, several strategic heights were recaptured by our forces from the Iraqi forces. Also a vast area of the Islamic homeland was purged of the enemy.

On the basis of the same report, the Islamic combatants, comprising the brave Islamic army troops, the Revolution Guards Corps and the Mobilization units came into contact with two enemy armored and infantry brigades and smashed both.

During these operations the Islamic combatants smashed 60 Ba'thist tanks and captured a considerable quantity of their equipment. Owing to the extent of the fronts, no exact figures on enemy casualties could be determined until 1400 today.

Egyptian, Jordanian POW's

LD231100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, reliable and informative sources in Tehran announced today that among the Iraqi prisoners of war, exceeding 5,000 troops, there is a number of Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers. The official figure on the Iraqi prisoners of war is 4,853.

Political observers believe that this demonstrates the decline and collapse of the Ba'thist army and the all-embracing aid provided to Saddam by imperialism.

Iraqis Shooting Deserters

LD221840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] According to IRNA, 70 of Saddam's deceived forces who were planning to surrender this morning to the forces of Islam on one of the Shush fronts were shot at from behind by the aggressive Ba'thist forces, and 58 of them were killed.

IRNA, quoting Iraqi POW's adds: Only 12 of the 70 who fled succeeded in surrendering to the forces of Islam, and 2 of them were wounded. According to the report, the two wounded persons are receiving treatment.

The evacuation of the Iraqi POW's from the fronts is continuing.

A report that has been obtained from very reliable sources says: At the time of the attack launched by the forces of Islam, the commander of the 34th Iraqi Armored Brigade asked his senior commanders to allow the unit under his command to withdraw. However, he was told that if he withdrew, he would be treated harshly.

Seyyed-Shirazi on Battle

LD221118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpts] IRNA reports that Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, the commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took part in an interview a few hours after the beginning of Fat'h operations and said: Fat'h operations consist of the most heavy attacks launched by the army of Islam since the beginning of the aggression by Saddam against our Islamic homeland. About the operational plans of this attack, he said: God willing, we will discuss the plans and war operations once the attack is completed.

He added: While we try and devote our efforts to showing the results of the people's support, we pray to God to help us succeed in being good soldiers for Islam and in throwing the infidel enemy out of the battle scene.

The commander of the ground forces added: Combatants of Islam should realize that while attacking the enemy we might encounter problems. Sometimes the enemy is crushed easily and in these cases we are able to achieve our objectives quite quickly; but, at other times we might have problems. What is certain is that we should consider all these encounters as God's ways of testing us and we should not allow any weakness to penetrate our attacks on the enemy. Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi then elaborated on two factors, namely, relying on God and putting one's trust in Him while using all existing facilities to ensure victory, and said: We are sure that in this way the battle will not end in defeat.

TEHRAN CITES REPORTS FROM CAPTURED IRAQIS

LD211752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] According to IRNA, during yesterday's operations the combatants of Islam, with amazing bravery, neutralized the enemy's movements and now hold dominant positions overlooking the positions of the Ba'thist invaders, and now hold the initiative.

On the other hand, according to Iraqi prisoners, two brigade commanders of the Iraqi Armed Forces, Major Ebrahim (Khadhr) Husayn and Major Husayn 'Abdallah Husayni, and one company commander, Warrant Officer Grade One Jassim Na'am, were killed during yesterday's operations.

On the basis of other reports from the Iraqi soldiers who were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam, First Lt 'Abud Abdallah Bakr, commander of one of the companies of the Saddam's aggressive armed forces, who refused to take part in yesterday's operations with his company, was executed by firing squad in (Algush) by order of his brigade commander.

One of the Iraqi prisoners, named Kazem Dahham, from Basra, who is about 25-years old, cried bitterly after his capture and said: I was separated from my family by force and taken to the battlefront. And for this reason I was very sad in the beginning. But now that I have been given refuge by the Islamic Republic, I am happy that I did not sacrifice my life for Saddam's expansionist desires.

Another Iraqi POW, aged 18 years, said: I suggested to several of my friends that we should surrender to the Iranian forces and they agreed. We gladly surrendered ourselves to the forces of Islam.

He told our correspondent: Before his death, my father in his will told me that the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly win the war, because they are the defenders of Islam.

ULEMA URGE IRAQI PEOPLE, ARMY TO REVOLT

GF222014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text of statement issued by the movement of struggling Iraqi ulema to the Iraqi people and their armed forces "on the occasion of the victories which our valiant soldiers achieved on the warfront today"]

[Text] "Oh you who beleive. When you meet those who disbelieve, advancing in force, turn not your backs on them." [Koranic verse] Oh sons of our oppressed Muslim people. Oh remnants of our zealous Muslim army. These are the marks of the Islamic victory. These are the moments of the great victory which you have been waiting for to avenge your faith and your nation and to teach the agent infidels lessons that will topple the ruler of infidelity and corruption and regain freedom and dignity for the wounded Muslim Iraqi people.

We call on you to determine your fate at these decisive moments and to discard the traces of tyranny and disgrace and actively participate in liberating your country and people and establish the government of God's justice under the nation's imam, Khomeyni. This government will ensure happiness for all the world's oppressed. Join the forces of Islam. Strike with the strength of faith the elements of the infidel ruler and its confused executioners whose fates have been sealed with defeat and disgrace.

"They cannot harm you save a slight hurt; and if they fight you, they shall show you their backs; then they shall not be helped." "And God made it only as a glad tidings that your hearts might thereby be set at rest. But help comes from God only; surely God is mighty and wise." [Koranic verses]

[Signed] The movement of struggling Iraqi ulema

KHOMEYNI CANCELS MEETINGS 24 MAR-3 APR

LD210906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Announcement issued by Imam Khomeyni's office]

[Text] In His exalted name. Offering New Year's congratulations, it is hereby announced that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, may his blessings continue, will have no public or private meetings from Wednesday, 24 March to Monday, 3 April. Those brothers and sisters who have already been granted appointments should keep the aforementioned period in mind when coming to this office.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's office, 21 March 1982

NABAVI ON THE HAGUE HEARING OF DISPUTE WITH U.S.

LD221822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The Hague court will rule on a number of preliminary issues connected with the settlement of the Iranian-U.S. dispute.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, said:

Before hearing arguments on matters connected with the dispute, The Hague court had to deal with a series of preliminary tasks, among which was an investigation of the situation surrounding the $1 billion which has been deposited in Algeria's account in the Netherland's bank. The balance of this account has been placed in escrow against Iran's outstanding payments to the United States.

The minister explained: At the time of the signing of the Algerian accord, Iran wished to withdraw all of its assets from U.S. banks. Since the U.S. institutions [as heard] had frozen those assets against claims by U.S. firms which believed that Iran owed them money, the U.S. Government asked for a financial guarantee on the payment of those debts should the court so decide and approve. Therefore, Iran deposited $1 billion with a Netherland's bank in Algeria's account. There are some disputes concerning this account for which The Hague court will rule today. Among the disputes is the interest earned by the account. While Iran wishes to withdraw the interest, the United States would like it to remain there. Moreover, the Iranian Government has reached some out-of-court settlements with a number of private U.S. companies. Iran wants to pay the amounts agreed from the $1 billion in the Algerian account, but the United States opposes the idea.

'AZIZI INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

GF191610 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 18 Mar 82 p 14

[Interview granted to AL-KHALIJ by Ahmad 'Azizi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, in the UAE -- date not given]

[Text] Question: What specifically have you discussed with officials in the UAE?

'Azizi: We explained the dangers of the increasing U.S. predominance in the region. We expressed our concern over the augmentation of this predominance. We are really interested in finding out if the leaders of the region are seeking means of bolstering peace and security, and I don't think that what is going on in the region right now meets people's aspirations of peace and security.

We notice that certain countries in the region are making rapid efforts at the initiative of the United States to enter into a direct or indirect alliance with the United States.

We believe that this matter will provoke other superpowers and that the U.S. presence in the region will urge these superpowers, and naturally the Soviet Union, to seek ways of bolstering and securing their interests. Logically, this would lead to more tension and would expand conflict among those who have international interests. This was a major objective of our visit to the UAE. We explained to our neighbors the dangers of the increasing U.S. predominance and we should discuss the possibilities of confronting this predominance.

Question: How do you view the GCC against what you have said about superpower conflict and Gulf security?

'Azizi: If the GCC countries adopt a unified policy tailored in the fashion of the countries helping to increase U.S. predominance in the region, this will constitute a direct threat to Iran and will be considered a step that would endanger our country's security. However, I am sure that GCC countries do not have the same ideas on the extent of trafficking with the United States and other superpowers. Therefore, I believe the GCC will not pursue a collective policy against us.

Anyhow, I think the United States is endeavoring to exploit the GCC to create a confrontation between the Arab countries and Iran. The Americans are looking for ways to foment disagreements between Iran and the Arab countries in the region and to expand and deepen such disagreements. Nonetheless, our policies and the policy of some Gulf countries will not allow the United States to go too far in carrying out its plans.

Question: What are the possibilities of possible cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran with its structure and well-known policy and the countries of the region in light of the present circumstances?

'Azizi: Cooperation with countries that provide facilities for the United States is absolutely impossible. There is no common ground for cooperation with these countries. Cooperation is also impossible with countries that claim Iran is an element of instability and an element aggravating tension in the region, or that Iran endeavors to interfere in the domestic affairs of the countries of the region. We have strongly denied the claims of interference in the domestic affairs of the countries of the region, but no one seems to be interested in our denial. The claims that the Zionist media organs are circulating about Iran's interference in the domestic affairs of the region's countries serve nothing but the interests of the United States.

Anyhow, if the same countries sever their relations with the United States, we will be glad to establish relations with them. As for countries that do not intend to have ties with the United States and do not make trouble for Iran, there is good ground for cooperation with these countries. The UAE is one of the countries with which Iran has a common ground for cooperation.

Question: Can you specify the aspects and means of this cooperation?

'Azizi: Cooperation in the economic and commercial field. It is possible to export agricultural products from the south of Iran to the countries of the region that need such products. Moreover, there are many commodities that the Iranian market can use. This is ground for cooperation which we can further. Along with economic and commercial cooperation, there is room for political cooperation too.

Question: How and on what level?

'Azizi: The adoption of joint stands against Israel, our common enemy, and the adoption of joint stands that would help confront U.S. intervention in the region. This is one of the objectives of my visit to the UAE.

Question: Do you feel that Iran today is less isolated than it was during the events of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran?

'Azizi: I do not think we were isolated at all. We were sequestered by certain governments, but that does not mean living in isolation. The break-in of the U.S. Embassy strengthened our relations with the peoples of the world and the peoples are our closest friends. They understand what is going on and know we are endeavoring to achieve real freedom and true independence. This notion is embedded in the hearts of the peoples. Therefore, the seizure of the embassy helped us introduce ourselves to the world's peoples. Inevitably, the seizure of the embassy isolated us from certain governments of the world, maybe most governments of the world. However, we believe that some governments denounced us because they did not understand the real sense of breaking into the U.S. Embassy. Nonetheless, we did not care about such isolation.

Question: What about Iranian-Soviet relations? Press reports say there is an inclination to bolster these relations.

'Azizi: Our relations with the Soviet Union are normal. We have relations with all countries of the Eastern bloc. We have invited some of these countries to send their envoys to Iran. Moreover, we have old relations with certain Western countries which we feel do not seek economic predominance in our country while dealing with us, as was the case previously.

As for press reports that say we are leaning toward the Soviet Union, they are fabricated by the United States and we reject them. We know exactly what we are doing and we always pursue a line that ensures our people's welfare. When we establish relations with the superpowers, such relations will continue to prosper so long as they do not harm or wreck the interests of our people.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we do not say we will further our relations with Moscow to the point where we will have to blind ourselves to any behavior by the Soviet Government. We maintain a normal level of relations with the Soviet Union. However, when we saw that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan contravened the interests of the Muslim people, we denounced the occupation without giving a thought to the impact of this denunciation on our relations with Moscow.

There are more important principles that should be taken into account even if this results in material loss sometimes. Our policy is based on principles regardless of the consequences.

Question: What about Iranian-Israeli armament relations?

'Azizi: The United States owns the instruments of propaganda in the world. Therefore, it was not strange that this subject continued to be a topic of discussion. Nevertheless, let's deal with our view of the U.S. strategy in that regard once again.

The United States is first of all trying to destroy the Islamic revolution in Iran by hook or by crook. Imposition of war against us was the instrument in achieving this strategy. Second, the United States is trying in every way possible to isolate us from other regimes in the region. The Americans know very well that Islamic public opinion is very sensitive regarding the Palestinian cause and the Zionist question. The Americans know that the Muslims of the world will not accept any kind of strong relationship, or rather any kind of relations, with Israel. Therefore, the best way to isolate Iran from public opinion in the Islamic world and from the Islamic nations is branding Iran with having contacts with Israel. On a parallel level, the United States is trying to spread the rumor that there has been a setback in Iranian-Palestinian relations. I do not believe that any sound political analysis or any logic supports the view that there is some kind of trafficking between Israel and us. I do not want to reiterate the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Palestinian cause.

In the aftermath of the revolution's victory, we severed relations with Israel and South Africa. We halted oil sales to Israel and gave Israel's embassy to the Palestinians. In addition, to establish relations with Israel is contrary to our principles and beliefs.

Furthermore, everyone knows we have announced our readiness to send our forces to Syria to assist in fighting in the Golan Heights. Everyone knows that, following the victory of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni declared the last Friday of Ramadan Jerusalem Day. On that day Iranians stage demonstrations and rallies calling for the liberation of Jerusalem. We are striving to spread Jerusalem Day all over the world so that the last Friday of Ramadan will be a memorable day in the Islamic world and the entire world, to thus stress the call for liberating Jerusalem. We are sure that the liberation of Jerusalem and solving the Palestinian problem will not be achieved unless all Muslims mobilize all their efforts against Israel.

After all, is there anything that would make Iran establish contacts with Israel?

It is rare to find an anti-Israel policy like ours. Accusing us of having contacts with Israel comes under the plans that are aimed at isolating Iran from public opinion in the Islamic world.

Question: Is it not possible that Iran could have purchased Israeli arms through a third party, particularly via the black market, without enquiring about the nationality or source of the arms?

'Azizi: Anything is possible because if you buy from distributors or brokers they will not tell you where they obtained the arms. They only tell you that you will receive this piece, and really I don't know. Neither can I say it is impossible because in the arms black market you have no control over the process of purchase.

(One of 'Azizi's aides interrupted, saying: Iran was accused of buying arms from Israel but via the black market, meaning that the arms were bought on the black market. The market is the market and if you buy from a distributor or middleman you should not be blamed.)

Question: Thus it is possible that arms made in Israel or arms that were in Israel have reached Iran?

'Azizi: Yes, you could buy a tape recorder from a distributor without asking him about its origin.

Question: Let us move to another point. Iran's relationship with the Amal movement is intimate. Some people believe Iran can relieve the tension in relations between the Amal movement and the Lebanese national and Palestinian movements in southern Lebanon. Has Iran made any efforts to do so?

'Azizi: We always give our opinion to all parties. As long as our common enemies are the United States and Israel, we will not approve any disagreements between these parties.

Question: However, it is clear that these parties, including Amal, have not responded to your opinion. Is it really that they did not respond or that you have not made the necessary effort?

'Azizi: Of course, we have other problems. But we did give our opinion on this issue and we hope they will follow it.

Question: How do you view your relations with the PLO these days?

'Azizi: Our relations with the Palestinians stem from our general policy which necessarily supports Palestinian rights and helps the Palestinians achieve their goals.

Question: Specifically, with the PLO?

'Azizi: Our relations with the PLO have always been intimate. There have been differences between us on certain international issues that we disapprove. We are certain these relations will not reach a stage of deterioration. We do have some reservations on certain issues that we hope will be resolved.

Question: However, Iran staged demonstrations against Yasir 'Arafat.

'Azizi: These were not against 'Arafat. They were against the Saudi peace plan and our people are free to express their opinions. I personally don't know 'Arafat's real stand on the plan. In fact, I have heard conflicting reports on 'Arafat's stand.

Question: Following Iran's denunciation of the Muslim Brotherhood group for its stand against the present Syrian Government, did your relations with Brotherhood groups weaken? How do you explain your denunciation of the Brotherhood, who are the strongest sympathizers with the Islamic revolution in Iran? Was it a denunciation by the Iranian revolution or by the Iranian state?

'Azizi: We are against any incidents that attempt to weaken the Syrian regime. If the Muslim Brotherhood is responsible for the incidents, we don't approve of what they do. Syria is the only state in the region that confronts the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. Weakening the Syrian regime will help Israel and the United States and give them a free hand in the region. We must not allow this to happen.

Question: So now your relations with the Brotherhood groups are weak?

'Azizi: We are certain that there are good brothers in the Muslim Brotherhood groups. There are real brothers and true Muslims, but we disapprove of their policy in Syria. I don't believe it would be wise to approve it or approve its continuation.

Question: Is it expected that you will mediate between the Brotherhood groups and Syria?

'Azizi: No one has asked us to do so.

Question: Is it not time to accept one of the many mediation efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war?

'Azizi: Since the war started we have continued to search for a permanent solution to our problems with Iraq. We look for the kind of solution that would suit the principles we believe in and that would be based on justice. We did not declare war and nor did we occupy Iraqi land.

Question: What are these principles?

'Azizi: Unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces and Iraqi agreement to pay compensation to the victims of the war. These principles are not illogical and if Iraq accepts them there will be no reason for continuing the war for even a day.

Question: But the Iranian press has been proposing other conditions that concern the Iraqi internal situation.

'Azizi: No, no. I don't believe other conditions exist. However, the withdrawal and the compensation will affect the internal situation in Iraq.

Question: Are you prepared to sit with the Iraqi Government at a negotiating table, assuming that it agrees to withdraw and pay the compensation?

'Azizi: We cannot discuss this now because Olof Palme, the Swedish diplomat and special envoy of the UN secretary general, came to us with an offer from Iraq stating its readiness to withdraw without prior conditions. However, according to this offer, discussions with Iran should begin, following the withdrawal, to settle the disputed issues. in Shatt al-'Arab and border amendments. We believe that this Iraqi request is a precondition. We want an unconditional withdrawal to prewar positions. We cannot announce now that we are ready to start negotiations with the Iraqi Government. Whether negotiations will take place or not will be decided after the completion of the Iraqi withdrawal.

Question: But the Iranian request can be fulfilled in due course. There are two sides in the war and a compromise solution is the best way to end it. Since you don't reject, in principle, negotiations with the Iraqi Government, why do you consider its request to begin the negotiations after the withdrawal a precondition?

'Azizi: We have not yet accepted the principle of negotiations and we must decide whether to do so or not after seeing that our conditions have been fulfilled. We cannot say now that we are prepared to sit with the Iraqi Government to negotiate. We can decide this immediately after the withdrawal.

Question: In principle and speaking frankly, you don't object to sitting down with the Iraqi Government to negotiate?

Answer: I cannot answer that now.

Question: Some analyses attribute your refusal to stop the war and accept mediation to Iran's internal situation. They say the revolution has no answers to questions of development and supplying the people's daily needs.

'Azizi: No. I don't believe we are using the war to solve our internal problems. I believe that using external factors in solving internal problems works in other countries but not in Iran. In our country there is a unique solidarity among the people. There is a revolution in Iran. I don't believe that a revolution in which millions took part needs such a policy. The number of those taking part in the revolution's activities increases monthly. New people enter the arena every day. In a state like ours we do not need a war to distract the people from their problems. We have a basic interest in ending the war because we need a chance to build, reconstruct and solve problems. All our resources are dedicated to the war now. In peacetime we shall utilize these resources in construction.

Question: What about the press reports that speak of a disagreement between Khamene'i and Rafsanjani?

'Azizi: I have not heard of such reports. According to my personal observations and the official reports available to me, those two persons are intimate friends. These reports are similar to the ones that preceded them and spoke about Khomeyni's illness.

Question: How serious is Imam Khomeyni's illiness?

'Azizi: Not serious. The imam's health is good.

Question: Primary reports about the formation of a command council in Iran said it would consist of five persons. Then it was announced that it had been formed but consisted of only three. Shari'atmadari and Shirazi were excluded. Why were they excluded?

'Azizi: I don't know why they were excluded. I don't even know the number of the persons forming the council and I don't know their names. However, I believe that at this moment our people don't approve Shari'atmadari's membership in the council. This council must respond to the people's opinion and follow their interests. The people don't want Shari'atmadari.

Question: Why don't they want Shari'atmadari?

'Azizi: That is a long story. Perhaps some other time.

BAHRAIN LIBERATION FRONT ASKS FOR HELP

GF230955 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Mar 82 p 16

[Text] The Bahrain Islamic Liberation Front, in a communique addressed to the Muslim and combatant Iranian nation, warns Iran about the upcoming execution of 73 Muslim warriors of this country and it has asked for help. The text of the communique is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Muslim and combatant Iranian nation, Oh lovers of God's way and heros of martyrdom and sacrifice. Seventy-three of the best sons of the Koran are facing execution in your neighboring country, Bahrain, charged with being followers of the imam and supporters of the Islamic revolution of Iran and of struggling against the United States and its agents.

The pro-U.S. Al Khalifah regime, which has made Bahrain dirty by turning it into a U.S. military base, in the past two months has arrested 3,000 Muslims. The regime's mercenary prosecutor general has asked for the death sentence for the 73 persons, and the only charge he has against them is that they have relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We, on behalf of the Bahraini Muslim nation, yell that shame be upon [Arab] Muslims and seek the help of you, Muslim and combatant nation, to save their lives. We hope that you will let the world know of our oppression.

Peace, God's mercy and blessing be on you.

VELAYATI SCORES MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ACTIVITIES

GF221312 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Mar 82 p 16

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, while severely criticizing the present activities of the "Muslim Brotherhood" in a public speech, said: Iraq's imposed war is battle training for our youth for their struggle against Israel.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, attended a public gathering at Tehran's Imam Khomeyni Mosque yesterday and, while briefly summarizing the history of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran after the revolution, outlined current foreign policy.

In his speech Dr Velayati noted the high ideals of the late Hasan Albana, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood and then discussed the gradual deviation of the organization, which is mainly located in Syria, a country directly involved in confronting the regime occupying Jerusalem. While severely criticizing the Muslim Brotherhood, he said: How is it that the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, including 'Omar Telesmani, who was recently released from jail by Husni Mubarak, not only are not struggling against the usurping regime of Jerusalem but also are doing nothing against the other reactionary regimes such as Saudi Arabia, which by exporting 14 million barrels of oil a day and by reducing oil prices to $27 instead of $40 has brought Islamic countries on the verge of bankruptcy, or the Egypt of As-Sadat and Mubarak, the government of Shah Husayn in Jordan or that of Ja'far Numayri in Tunisia? [as published]

The foreign minister then mentioned his recent trip to the United Nations, Algeria, Syria, the Western Sahara and Mauritania and said: While our foreign policy is based on "Neither East nor West" we believe that we should participate in any international issue and will travel to any country that we hope will some day join the united Muslim front against the front of international infidelity. It is with such contacts that we will be able to export the culture of our revolution.

In conclusion, while referring to the honor and respect the Islamic Republic has won on the international scene -- noting the tremendous turnout for the speeches by the Iranian delegation at the United Nations -- Brother Velayati said: The honor that revolutionary Iran is enjoying throughout the world has no parallel, and this is due to our adherence to Islam and for saying no to the East and the West.

SUNNI SCHOLAR ASSASSINATED IN MAHABAD 22 MAR

LD231144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Mullah Karim Shahri-Kandi, one of Mahabad's Sunni scholars, was assassinated yesterday by the hypocrites organization after having completed his noon and evening prayers in the town's Azadi Square, giving thanks for the victories of the Islamic combatants. He was shot when leaving the Maulawi Mosque.

'COMBATANTS' EXECUTE HEZBOLLAHI IN TEHRAN

GF191236 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Ahmad Navab, the brother of Khomeyni's ambassador in the FRG, was executed in a revolutionary manner by armed combatants in one of Tehran's streets last Sunday.

He was one of the members of the Hezbollah who was cooperating with the regime's security organization SAVAMA. Acting as an informer, Ahmad Navab's brother, Mehdi Navab, had asked the Tehran regime on several occasions to send mercenary guards and Hezbollahi to the FRG for the purpose of identification and assassination of opponents. The mercenary ambassador of Khomeyni in the FRG in an application to the regime had written that he would be able to provide them with diplomatic passports and permits for carrying weapons. The application has now fallen into the hands of the opponents.

FORCES KILL 'HYPOCRITES,' MAJLIS CANDIDATES

LD231206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] IRNA reports that the Public Relations Office in the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced: The efforts of our selfless brothers in the Islamic revolution committees, the Police Force of the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, following their victorious "10 Days of Dawn" operation, which resulted in the destruction of Musa Khiabani's network, succeeded in killing seven of the programmers, officials in charge and executors of senseless assassination plots by this warring minigroup in the third phase of the "Mersal" operation and during their heroic attacks on houses of corruption.

The names of the seven [figure as heard] are:

Mahmud Malek-Marzban, alias Merteza, Ahmad and 'Isa, in charge of this organization's military training, organizer of militia, [word indistinct] agent, the top man in military operations, the main planner and commander of all the group's operations and assassination attempts and the hypocrites organization's candidate for the Islamic Majlis from Nowshahr;

'Ali (Khorashadi), alias Hamid Khorasani and Mohammad 'Ali Farshadi, one of the top officials of the organizational core, one of the military officials and the official in charge of the financial supplies and equipment for all towns and the hypocrite's candidate for the Islamic Majlis from Birjand;

Ahmad Nikandish, alias Mohsen Mardi, one of the officials of the special military operations network responsible for recent assassinations;

Jalil Savadinezhad, alias Behzad, one of the old and active members of the organization and its candidate from Abadan, one of the officials of the military network;

Akbar Mesbah, alias Kiumars, one of the active members of the military network;

Parviz, alias Habib, in charge of several of the network's terrorist and operational units;

Morteza Sayyadi, alias Majid, in charge of several operational and terrorist units; and

Sa'id Naziri, one of the hypocrites' active members.

RADIO IRAN ON SOVIET, BULGARIAN, EAST GERMAN AGENTS

GF201147 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Following the discovery made by Radio Iran of the presence and mission of Bulgarian and East German experts and some high-ranking officials of the KGB -- the Soviet intelligence organization -- in the Islamic Republic, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i denied the presence of military and nonmilitary foreign experts in our country. In connection with the denial by the president of the Islamic Republic we remind you that in Esfahan, Kordestan, Mazandaran and, of course, Tehran, there are more than 6,000 Soviet citizens active under various names and designations.

Members of Sadeq Khalkhali's Muslim Brotherhood organization are being sent to western Mazandaran in groups of 200 for special training by Soviet and East German experts.